

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Jasper Economic Development Commission
August 15, 2012**

The Jasper Economic Development Commission met on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street. Notice was given in compliance with Indiana's Open Meeting Law.

CALL TO ORDER

President Andrew Seger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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| Member Andrew Seger | present |
| Member Jim Skillman | absent |
| Member Robert Whitten | present |
| Member Mark Schmidt | absent |
| Member Ray Snowden | present |

Also present:

Renee Kabrick - Commission's attorney
Kathy Pfister – Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Seger made a motion to approve the Commission's minutes from their April 25, 2012 meeting as presented. Ray Snowden seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING DATE

In establishing a regular scheduled meeting date, Attorney Kabrick sent out some dates and times for the members to come to an agreement on. After some discussion, the consensus was to schedule the meetings for 8am, on either the first Wednesday following the first Monday or the second Wednesday following the first Monday of each month. Attorney Kabrick said she will follow up after receiving input from the two absent members, Jim Skillman and Mark Schmidt.

TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST

MEYER DISTRIBUTING, INC. – REAL AND PERSONAL

Mike Braun, CEO of Meyer Distributing, Inc. and Manager of Braun Family Properties appeared before the Commission to present a tax abatement application for Meyer Distributing. Also present was Jeff Braun, Facility Set up Manager and Matt Schaick, Credit and Account Manager. Mr. Braun gave a brief history of the company. Meyer Distributing originally began in in the late 1930's in Haysville, IN, as Meyer Body Company. At that time, it was a manufacturer of refrigerated bodies and farm beds. Mr. Braun said he purchased the property in the mid-80's and began selling truck accessories. A 25,000 square-foot warehouse was built in 1998 and in 1999 another 25,000 square feet was added. With a second addition of 50,000 square feet, the main facility measures 100,000 square feet. Meyer Distributing has grown at an average rate of 18% each year and has several locations throughout the nation. The company is planning to expand its business in Dallas, TX; the company's largest market.

Meyer Distributing plans to expand its headquarters in Jasper. In addition to the original building located on Twenty-Fifth Street, the company recently purchased the former Stens building on Cathy Lane and leases the GT Industries building, also located on Cathy Lane, with plans to purchase it as well. After the purchase of the GT building is completed, Meyer Distributing plans to build a connection between its main facility and the GT building. Mr. Braun said he also has a verbal agreement to purchase Valspar Coatings, which is located adjacent to his property. If purchased, the building would be demolished. The company also owns property across the road and plans to continue development. Meyer Distributing's expansion would increase existing storage in Jasper by 300,000 square feet. It will create approximately 100 new full-time positions; average pay rate at \$16 an hour. The expansion would also create 14 part-time positions.

In conclusion of Mr. Braun's presentation, he was highly complimented by the Commission and scored 115 points on the application. The scores are based on several categories, such as history in the area, capital investment, jobs created, green initiatives and community involvement. The company qualified for the highest tax abatement available, up to ten years.

With no more discussion, President Seger recommended that the Common Council allow the maximum abatement and adopt the City of Jasper's score sheet agreed upon by this Commission. Ray Snowden seconded it. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, a **motion** was made by President Seger and seconded by Ray Snowden to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0, and the meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Andrew M. Seger, President

ATTEST:

Mark R. Schmidt, Secretary